

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 120844Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1285

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION UN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1241

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, UR, NO

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN/SOVIET LOS TALKS

REF: OSLO 1040 (NOTAL)

1. NORWEGIAN/SOVIET LOS CONSULTATIONS IN OSLO ON MARCH 2 AND 3 FOCUSED ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS FOR THE LOS CONFERENCE BEGINNING MARCH 15 IN NEW YORK, THE REVISED COMMITTEE 3 TEXT ON POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORKED OUT AT THE EVENSEN GROUP MEETING IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS YEAR, AND BILATERAL FISHING MATTERS. THE NORWEGIAN SIDE WAS HEADED BY LOS MINISTER EVENSEN, THE RUSSIAN SIDE BY KOLOSOVSKY, HEAD OF THE SOVIET LOS DELEGATION. ACCORDING TO ARNE TREHOLT, EVENSEN'S UNDER SECRETARY, THE SOVIETS DID NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO HAVE HAD WIDE INTERSESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON LOS MATTERS, ALTHOUGH IT WAS APPARENT THEY HAD GIVEN CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT TO LOS ISSUES IN MOSCOW. TREHOLT SAID
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NORWEGIANS HAD IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS WERE USING THEM AS

A SOUNDING BOARD TO TRY OUT THEIR POSITIONS.

2. PROCEDURAL MATTERS--TREHOLT SAID THAT NORWEGIANS AND SOVIETS WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON OVERALL PROCEDURES FOR LOS CONFERENCE OPENING IN NEW YORK ON MARCH 15, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS DID NOT HAVE FIXED POSITIONS. TREHOLT SKETCHED THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO: OPENING WEEK - DISCUSSION OF PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS; WEEKS 2 THROUGH 4 - DISCUSSIONS IN COMMITTEES 1, 2, AND 3; WEEK 5 - REDRAFTING OF SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT BY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN; WEEKS 6 AND 7 - DISCUSSION OF REDRAFTED SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT AND AMONG REGIONAL GROUPS AND IN COMMITTEES; WEEK 8 - DISCUSSION OF SECOND 1976 CONFERENCE SESSION. SOVIETS AND NORWEGIANS AGREED THAT FOR SAKE OF EFFICIENCY DELEGATIONS SHOULD ONLY BE PERMITTED TO MAKE COMMENTS ON THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT DURING DISCUSSIONS BUT WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO MAKE AMENDMENTS TO THE TEXT AND THAT THIS WOULD BE LEFT TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. EVENSEN GROUP WOULD BE USED AS CONSULTATIVE BODY, ESPECIALLY DURING WEEKS 6 AND 7, AND SHOULD, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIETS, FOCUS PRIMARILY ON COMMITTEE 2. THE PINTO GROUP WILL PROBABLY BE USED FOR COMMITTEE 1. (SEE PARA 3 BELOW FOR SOVIET CONCERNS RE EVENSEN GROUP IN COMMITTEE 3.) TREHOLT SAID EVENSEN HAS DRAFTED REVISIONS TO THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT WHICH HE WILL UPDATE IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION DURING WEEKS 2, 3, AND 4, AND WILL GIVE PRIOR TO WEEK 5 TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AS HIS PERSONAL SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISION BY THEM OF SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT.

3. REVISED COMMITTEE 3 TEXT--TREHOLT SAID THAT SOVIETS HAD CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY WITH REVISED TEXT ON POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORKED OUT BY EVENSEN GROUP IN GENEVA EARLIER THIS YEAR. SOVIETS INDICATED THEY WOULD PREFER THAT SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT FROM LAST LOS CONFERENCE BE STARTING POINT FOR DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE 3, NOT RPT NOT THE REVISIONS SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED OUT IN EVENSEN GROUP IN GENEVA. APPARENTLY SOVIETS FELT THAT, WHILE THEY COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT EVENSEN GROUP REVISIONS, THEY COULD NOT GO FURTHER. THEREFORE, THEY WOULD PREFER TO START WITH SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT IN HOPE OF ENDING U AT A POINT NEAR EVENSEN GROUP REVISIONS.
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THEY WERE AFRAID THAT IF THEY STARTED WITH EVENSEN GROUP REVISIONS THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE MORE MOVEMENT IN DIRECTION OF COASTAL STATE CONTROL THAN THEY COULD ACCEPT. AS A CONSEQUENCE THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PREFER THAT EVENSEN GROUP CONCENTRATE ON COMMITTEE 2 AND NOT PLAY A STRONG ROLE IN COMMITTEE 3.

4. BILATERAL FISHING ISSUES--TREHOLT SAID THAT SOVIETS

DID NOT TAKE TOO SERIOUSLY EVENSEN'S CONTENTION THAT 200-MILE FISHING LIMITS WERE ON ESTABLISHED FACT. THEY GAVE IMPRESSION THEY WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH EEC ACCEPTANCE OF 200-MILE LIMIT AND TENDED TO DOWNGRADE THREAT OF UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS. TREHOLT COMMENTED THAT THIS COULD CAUSE NORWAY CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY IF IT EXTENDS ITS FISHING LIMITS IN EARLY 1977 AS PLANNED. HE SAID THAT EVENSEN STRESSED TO SOVIETS THE COMMON PROBLEM THAT WOULD BE CAUSED FOR NORWAY AND THE USSR IN THE BARENTS SEA AS THE RESULT OF INCREASED FISHING THERE OWING TO INCREASED CONTROLS (E.G., ICNAF) AND RESTRICTIONS (E.G., ICELAND) ON FISHING IN OTHER AREAS. AT END OF CONSULTATIONS EVENSEN GAVE KOLOSOVSKY PRELIMINARY DRAFT NORWEGIAN/SOVIET FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH KOLOSOVSKY WILL GIVE TO SOVIET FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV. AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR 200-MILE FISHING LIMITS, CONTINUED RECIPROCAL FISHING IN EACH OTHER'S WATERS, COASTAL STATE QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL FISH STOCKS, LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR FISHING VESSELS, AND NON-DISCRIMINATORY ENFORCEMENT BY THE COASTAL STATE. DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH SOVIETS, BUT WILL FORM BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHEN EVENSEN MEETS ISHKOV IN MOSCOW IN MAY.

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